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LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention and that of the members of the Security Council acts of aggression committed by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)/military junta against innocent civilians and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, as well as statements by officials of the junta signifying its intransigence, defiant attitude and cynical response to that resolution.

(Signed) James O. C. JONAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Acts of aggression and intimidation and statements by the Revolutionary United Front/military junta

1. 8 October 1997

RUF Commander and Deputy Chief of the AFRC Defence Staff, Colonel Sam "Maskita" Bokari, in an interview on the BBC African Services programme "Focus on Africa", in response to a question about Security Council sanctions on the junta, said:

> "... As long as we have our natural resources, like our diamonds and gold, I can tell you that sanctions will affect our poor innocent civilians, but not us as the AFRC ..."

2. 8 October 1997

An AFRC helicopter gunship attacked an ECOMOG chopper taking supplies from Lungi International Airport to ECOMOG troops stationed at Jui. In response, ECOMOG Alpha jets made surveillance flights to locate the AFRC gunship. In a second raid, ECOMOG Alpha jets attacked the gunship hideouts at the junta's military headquarters at Cockerill, on the western outskirts of Freetown.

3. 8 October 1997

President Kabbah's private residence at Juba Hill, built following his retirement from the United Nations, and long before he was elected President, was burned down by elements of the junta and their supporters.

4. 9 October 1997

AFRC Spokesman, Allieu Kamara, in an interview on the BBC African Services "Focus on Africa" said that the President's house was burned down as a reprisal for the ECOMOG "attack on the military headquarters", and that the act was "a message to Tejan Kabbah". He added:

> "... any time a civilian is dead, Tejan Kabbah and his supporters will definitely suffer, because they have been crying to the international community for military intervention. And this time, we are not ready to be stampeded."

5. 9 October 1997

At 1900 hours, troops of the junta launched an attack on the ECOMOG protected area at Lungi International Airport. The ECOMOG Commander reported that the purpose of the attack was to take ECOMOG soldiers hostage and then demand the release of RUF leader Foday Sankoh who is currently detained in Nigeria on arms charges. The attack lasted throughout the night.

6. 10 October 1997

The RUF/military junta mounted an early morning attack on the ECOMOG base at Jui and Kossoh Town. The attack was repelled.

7. 11 October 1997

The junta continued its attack on Jui, and claimed on state radio SLBS that its forces had "routed the Nigerians and we are now in control and have captured many Nigerians. The others have fled into the nearby bushes from where they are bombing nearby areas". ECOMOG continued to repel the attacks.

8. 11 October 1997

A journalist was shot and seriously wounded outside the charred home of President Kabbah, on suspicion that he was a reporter of a pro-democracy radio station (FM 98.1) in Sierra Leone.

9. 12 October 1997

Another night of RUF/military junta attack on the ECOMOG base at Jui. The junta placed heavy guns among the civilian population in nearby Wellington township at night while attacking the ECOMOG base, and then removed the weapons for safe keeping during the day.

10. 13 October 1997

The RUF/military junta attacked the ECOMOG contingent in the provincial capital, Bo. This was repelled.

At 1700 hours, the junta forces launched another attack on the ECOMOG contingent at Jui. The attack was once again repelled.

11. 14 October 1997

The military junta forces commenced the laying of landmines in the vicinity of Jui. In a cynical manner forces of the military junta are now wearing ECOMOG-type military uniforms. Earlier, it had come to the knowledge of the ECOMOG command and the legitimate government that such ECOMOG uniforms were being prepared in large quantities. In addition, for the first time there were indications that the junta forces were prepared to use some form of gas in their determination to dislodge the ECOMOG forces from Jui.